notice, even when there is a general desire to overlook it. External objects and events may frequently make it pass in review before the spectator. More commonly it is excited feeling that fixes it constantly before the mind, so that, turn itself as it may, it ever sees the deed standing out in colours of flame, like a lurid light glaring in the midst of darkness, and attracting the eye, though only to pain and annoy it. A crime long concealed from the public gaze has at length, let us suppose, been detected, the indignation of the whole community is excited, and the finger of reproach is pointed at the perpetrator. It is manifest, that he cannot now banish the recollection of the offence so constantly or effectually as he was wont. It will rise up anew with every feeling of wounded vanity, and whenever he is exposed to studied neglect or insult. We can account, on precisely the same principles, for a seemingly contradictory phenomenon—the great annoyance given by the conscience in cases in which constant exertion requires to be made to keep the crime concealed. The very attempt at concealment, according to the natural law of association, must keep the deed perpetually before the mind, to awaken the conscience and madden the soul. The man who has such a fearful secret to keep has a fire in his bosom which he is " gathering to keep it warm ;" and he would not be lacerated by the lash of public reprobation so fearfully as by these scorpions of his own exasperated conscience. The sin is also kept before the mind, and the conscience troubled, when there is any circumstance connected with the commission of the sin which is fitted to excite the social and sympathetic emotions. When the shrieks of the murdered, for instance, ring for years in the ears of the murderer, the mind cannot but be in a state of constant restlessness—the burning centre of the most intense anguish.

In other cases, the troubling of the conscience is

produced, we can scarcely tell how, by the state of the nervous system, or by an accidental event, recalling the deed committed to oblivion, or by a sudden flashing of some willingly forgotten scene upon the mind, revealing, like the lightning's glare at night, dreadful depths of darkness. In regard to such phenomena, we may know what are the general laws; though it may be as difficult to condescend upon the specific causes, as it is to tell the immediate cause of the raising this gust of wind, or of this cloudy